IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of : Eberhard Harms et al.	Confirmation No. 2263
Serial No.: 10/539139	Group Art Unit: 1797
Filed: August 18, 2005	Examiner: Denise R. Anderson
Title: FILTER DEVICE	
Atty. Dkt.: FRG-16153	

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANTS' BRIEF (37 CFR § 43.37)

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §41.37 within two months of the Notice of Appeal that was filed in this matter on May 26, 2009. Authorization for payment to cover the fee referenced in 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2) is provided. If any additional fees are due for this filing, please charge such additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, Our Order No. FRG-16153.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Utisol Technologies AG, having a place of business at Bahnholstrasse 21, Postfach 4824, Zug, Switzerland is the real party in interest and the assignee of all right, title, and interest to the invention throughout the world. An assignment from inventors Eberhard Harms, and Mark Grigo has been recorded with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and can be found at Reel 016637 and Frame 0714.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant does not know of any related appeals and/or interferences that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. Total Number of Claims in Application

Eleven claims are currently pending in this application.

B. Status of the Claims

1. Claims previously canceled: Claims 2, 5, 6 and 14

2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not cancelled: None

3. Claims pending: 1, 3-4, 7-13 and 15

4. Claims allowed: None

5. Claims rejected: 1, 3-4, 7-13 and 15

6. Claims objected to: 15

7. Claims indicated as allowable if the §112 rejections are overcome: None

C. Claims on Appeal

The claims on appeal are: Claims 1, 3-4, 7-13 and 15.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments to the claims have been submitted by Applicant after receipt of the Final Office Action of February 25, 2009.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent Claim 1

The invention claimed in independent claim 1 relates to a filter device (1) for the separation of undissolved solid substances from liquids, in particular in the fields of waste water purification and water treatment. *(Specification page 5, lines 5-10 [paragraph 0008]; Fig. 1)* The filter device (1) includes several filter elements (6). *(Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter device (1) is introduced into a container (2) containing the unpurified liquid. (*Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* Through the individual filter elements (6), a filtrate is capable of being drained away. *(Specification page 9, lines 1-2 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter elements (6) are arranged so as to be capable of rotating around a horizontal axis, and the filter elements (6) are designed and arranged in such a manner, that they form a hollow space (4) in the center. *(Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter device (1) comprises a gassing installation (8), which is stationarily arranged in the hollow space (4) and which for the formation of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being impinged with compressed gas and which is arranged in such a manner, that in the liquid a flow of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being produced at the filter elements (6), which renders an adhesion of solid substances to the filter elements (6) more difficult. *(Specification page 9, lines 3-9 [paragraph 0023] and page 10, lines 16-19 [paragraph 0024]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter elements (6) are arranged to be rotatable around the gassing installation (8). *(Specification page 10, lines 5-10 [paragraph 0024]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The gassing installation (8) comprises either at least one elongated hollow body (10) only in the hollow space and arranged

parallel to a hollow shaft (9), which is closed at the ends on both sides, or comprises at least one elongated hollow body (10) only in the hollow space and arranged horizontally as well as orthogonally to a hollow shaft (9), and the at least one hollow body (10) is connected with a chamber (12) of the hollow shaft (9) through connecting pieces (11), wherein the chamber (12) is connected with a compressed gas generator (14). *(Specification page 9, lines 4-11 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1-4)*

Independent Claim 13 (argued separately)

The invention claimed in independent claim 13 relates to a filter device (1) for the separation of undissolved solid substances from liquids, in particular in the fields of waste water purification and water treatment. *(Specification page 5, lines 5-10 [paragraph 0008]; Fig. 1)* The filter device (1) includes several filter elements (6). *(Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter device (1) is introduced into a container (2) containing the unpurified liquid. (*Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* Through the individual filter elements (6) a filtrate is capable of being drained away. *(Specification page 9, lines 1-2 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter elements (6) are arranged so as to be capable of rotating around a horizontal axis, and the filter elements (6) are designed and arranged in such a manner, that they form a hollow space (4) in the center. *(Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter device (1) comprises a gassing installation (8), which is stationarily arranged in the hollow space (4) and which for the formation of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being impinged with compressed gas and which is arranged in such a manner, that in the liquid a flow of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being produced at the

filter elements (6), such that this flow renders an adhesion of solid substances to the filter elements (6) more difficult. *(Specification page 9, lines 3-9 [paragraph 0023] and page 10, lines 16-19 [paragraph 0024]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter elements (6) are arranged to be rotatable around the gassing installation (8). *(Specification page 10, lines 5-10 [paragraph 0024]; Fig. 1)* The gassing installation (8) comprises at least one elongated hollow body (10) that is either porous or provided with holes (15) and that is connected to a compressed gas generator (14), wherein the elongated hollow body (10) is located only within the hollow space (4) formed by the filter elements (6). *(Specification page 9, lines 2-9 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1-3)*

Independent Claim 15 (argued separately)

The invention claimed in claim 15 relates to a filter device (1) for the separation of undissolved solid substances from liquids, in particular in the fields of waste water purification and water treatment. *(Specification page 5, lines 5-10 [paragraph 0008]; Fig. 1)* The filter device (1) includes several filter elements (6). *(Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter device (1) is introduced into a container (2) containing the unpurified liquid. (*Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* Through the individual filter elements (6), a filtrate is capable of being drained away. *(Specification page 9, lines 1-2 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter elements (6) are arranged so as to be capable of rotating around a horizontal axis, and the filter elements are designed and arranged in such a manner, that they form a hollow space (4) in the center. *(Specification page 8, lines 15-20 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter device (6) comprises a gassing installation, which is stationarily arranged in the hollow space

(4) and which for the formation of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being impinged with compressed gas and which is arranged in such a manner, that in the liquid a flow of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being produced at the filter elements, which renders an adhesion of solid substances to the filter elements more difficult. *(Specification page 9, lines 3-9 [paragraph 0023] and page 10, lines 16-19 [paragraph 0024]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The filter elements (6) are arranged to be rotatable around the gassing installation (8). *(Specification page 10, lines 5-10 [paragraph 0024]; Figs. 1 & 3)* The gassing installation (8) comprises a hollow shaft (9) with gas outlet openings and is connected to a compressed gas generator (14), the filter elements (6) being arranged to be rotatable around the hollow shaft, wherein the gas outlet openings are located only in the hollow space (4) formed by the filter plates (6). *(Specification page 9, lines 2-9 [paragraph 0023]; Figs. 1-3)*

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION

1. Whether claims 1, 3-4, 7-13, 15 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Canadian Patent No. 2421115A1 to Grigo et al. in view of Japanese Patent 61274799 to Masuda et al and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,997,447 to Breton et al.

2. Whether claim 13 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Canadian Patent No. 2421115A1 to Grigo et al. in view of Japanese Patent 61274799 to Masuda et al.

VII. ARGUMENTS

1. The Rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 7-13, 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Canadian Patent No. 2421115A1 to Grigo et al. (hereinafter Grigo) in view of Japanese Patent 61274799 to Masuda et al (hereinafter Masuda) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,997,447 to Breton et al. (hereinafter Breton)

Group I – Claims 1, 3-4, 7-12

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, the cited references must teach each and every claim limitation or element of the rejected claims. *In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).* The rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3-4 and 7-12 should be reversed, because each and every limitation of the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the combination of Grigo, Masuda, and Breton.

Claim 1 includes a feature regarding the position of the elongated hollow body of the gassing installation with respect to the hollow space in the center of the filter elements. Specifically, the elongated hollow body is located only within this hollow space in the center of the filter elements. In contrast, Grigo, does not teach or suggest the elongated body of the claimed invention. Masuda teaches only a particular device that includes gas emitting pipes that must be located next to the filter plates. Masuda states that each time the filter plate assembly rotates, the filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes and this aids with removing material on the plates. Thus, if the teachings of Masuda were able to be combined with those of Grigo, the gas emitting pipes in the combination would still extend next to the plates (now of Grigo) and necessarily out of the hollow space in the center of Grigo. This does not teach or suggest the claimed feature of amended claim 1, specifically the

elongated hollow body of the gassing installation only in the hollow space. Breton does nothing to cure this problem with the proposed combination as Breton teaches nothing regarding the spatial relationship of gas emitting pipes and plates. Breton teaches only a single one of these type of devices (depending on which way the gas is forced through the device). Thus, even if a combination of the references were appropriate, the invention of claim 1 is not taught or suggested.

Further, the Examiner's combination of the teachings of Grigo and Matsuya, specifically substituting the piping of Matsuya into the Grigo device is not appropriate. The "Examination Guidelines of Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the Supreme court Decision in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* 72 Fed Reg. 57526, 57530) requires when substituting one known element for another to obtain predictable results that a finding be made "that one of ordinary skill in the art could have substituted one known element for another and the result of the substitution would have been predictable". Here, the result of the proposed substitution would not have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art. As previously stated, Masuda requires that the gas emitting pipes extend to a position adjacent the filter plates, so that when the rotating filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes, material adhered to the face of the filter plates is removed. The gas emitting pipes of Masuda physically cannot be added to the Grigo device in this manner because the extension of the pipes would interfere with the element 8 in Grigo that is part of the filter plate structure. There is no obvious way for one of ordinary skill in the art to avoid this interference. Thus, the result of the proposed combination the teachings of Grigo and Masuda in this regard is not predictable, instead only a malfunction or interference situation would be predictable based on a combination of the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) was improper, and should be reversed.

Group II – Claim 13

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, the cited references must teach each and every claim limitation or element of the rejected claims. *In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).* The rejection of independent claim 13 should be reversed, because each and every limitation of the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the combination of Grigo, Masuda, and Breton.

Claim 13 includes a feature regarding the position of the elongated hollow body of the gassing installation with respect to the hollow space in the center of the filter elements. Specifically, the elongated hollow body is located only within this hollow space formed by the filter elements. In contrast, Grigo, does not teach or suggest the elongated body of the claimed invention. Masuda teaches only a particular device that includes gas emitting pipes that must be located next to the filter plates. Masuda states that each time the filter plate assembly rotates, the filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes and this aids with removing material on the plates. Thus, if the teachings of Masuda were able to be combined with those of Grigo, the gas emitting pipes in the combination would still extend next to the plates (now of Grigo) and necessarily out of the hollow space in the center of Grigo. This does not teach or suggest the claimed feature of amended claim 1, specifically the elongated hollow body of the gassing installation only in the hollow space. Breton does nothing to cure this problem with the proposed combination as Breton teaches

nothing regarding the spatial relationship of gas emitting pipes and plates. Breton teaches only a single one of these type of devices (depending on which way the gas is forced through the device). Thus, even if a combination of the references were appropriate, the invention of claim 13 is not taught or suggested.

Further, the Examiner's combination of the teachings of Grigo and Matsuya, specifically substituting the piping of Matsuya into the Grigo device is not appropriate. The "Examination Guidelines of Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the Supreme court Decision in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* 72 Fed Reg. 57526, 57530) requires when substituting one known element for another to obtain predictable results that a finding be made "that one of ordinary skill in the art could have substituted one known element for another and the result of the substitution would have been predictable". Here, the result of the proposed substitution would not have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art. As previously stated, Masuda requires that the gas emitting pipes extend to a position adjacent the filter plates, so that when the rotating filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes, material adhered to the face of the filter plates is removed. The gas emitting pipes of Masuda physically cannot be added to the Grigo device in this manner because the extension of the pipes would interfere with the element 8 in Grigo that is part of the filter plate structure. There is no obvious way for one of ordinary skill in the art to avoid this interference. Thus, the result of the proposed combination the teachings of Grigo and Masuda in this regard is not predictable, instead only a malfunction or interference situation would be predictable based on a combination of the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) was improper, and should be reversed.

Group III – Claims 15

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, the cited references must teach each and every claim limitation or element of the rejected claims. *In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).* The rejection of independent claim 15 should be reversed, because each and every limitation of the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the combination of Grigo, Masuda, and Breton.

Claim 15 includes a feature regarding the position of the gas outlet openings on a hollow shaft with respect to the hollow space in the center of the filter elements. Specifically, the gas outlet openings are located only in the hollow space formed by the filter plates. In contrast, Grigo, does not teach or suggest the hollow shaft and gas outlet openings of the claimed invention. Masuda teaches only a particular device that includes gas emitting pipes that must be located next to the filter plates. Masuda states that each time the filter plate assembly rotates, the filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes and this aids with removing material on the plates. Thus, if the teachings of Masuda were able to be combined with those of Grigo, the gas emitting pipes in the combination would still extend next to the plates (now of Grigo) and necessarily out of the hollow space in the center of Grigo. This does not teach or suggest the claimed feature of amended claim 1, specifically the elongated hollow body of the gassing installation only in the hollow space. Breton does nothing to cure this problem with the proposed combination as Breton teaches nothing regarding the spatial relationship of gas emitting pipes and plates. Breton teaches

only a single one of these type of devices (depending on which way the gas is forced through the device). Thus, even if a combination of the references were appropriate, the invention of claim 15 is not taught or suggested.

Further, the Examiner's combination of the teachings of Grigo and Matsuya, specifically substituting the piping of Matsuya into the Grigo device is not appropriate. The "Examination Guidelines of Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the Supreme court Decision in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* 72 Fed Reg. 57526, 57530) requires when substituting one known element for another to obtain predictable results that a finding be made "that one of ordinary skill in the art could have substituted one known element for another and the result of the substitution would have been predictable". Here, the result of the proposed substitution would not have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art. As previously stated, Masuda requires that the gas emitting pipes extend to a position adjacent the filter plates, so that when the rotating filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes, material adhered to the face of the filter plates is removed. The gas emitting pipes of Masuda physically cannot be added to the Grigo device in this manner because the extension of the pipes would interfere with the element 8 in Grigo that is part of the filter plate structure. There is no obvious way for one of ordinary skill in the art to avoid this interference. Thus, the result of the proposed combination the teachings of Grigo and Masuda in this regard is not predictable, instead only a malfunction or interference situation would be predictable based on a combination of the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) was improper, and should be reversed.

2. The Rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Canadian Patent No. 2421115A1 to Grigo et al. (hereinafter Grigo) in view of Japanese Patent 61274799 to Masuda et al (hereinafter Masuda)

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, the cited references must teach each and every claim limitation or element of the rejected claims. *In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).* The rejection of independent claim13 should be reversed, because each and every limitation of the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the combination of Grigo, Masuda, and Breton.

Claim 13 includes a feature regarding the position of the elongated hollow body of the gassing installation with respect to the hollow space in the center of the filter elements. Specifically, the elongated hollow body is located only within this hollow space formed by the filter elements. In contrast, Grigo, does not teach or suggest the elongated body of the claimed invention. Masuda teaches only a particular device that includes gas emitting pipes that must be located next to the filter plates. Masuda states that each time the filter plate assembly rotates, the filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes and this aids with removing material on the plates. Thus, if the teachings of Masuda were able to be combined with those of Grigo, the gas emitting pipes in the combination would still extend next to the plates (now of Grigo) and necessarily out of the hollow space in the center of Grigo. This does not teach or suggest the claimed feature of amended claim 1, specifically the elongated hollow body of the gassing installation only in the hollow space. Thus, even if a combination of the references were appropriate, the invention of claim 13 is not taught or suggested.

Further, the Examiner's combination of the teachings of Grigo and Matsuya,

specifically substituting the piping of Matsuya into the Grigo device is not appropriate. The "Examination Guidelines of Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the Supreme court Decision in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* 72 Fed Reg. 57526, 57530) requires when substituting one known element for another to obtain predictable results that a finding be made "that one of ordinary skill in the art could have substituted one known element for another and the result of the substitution would have been predictable". Here, the result of the proposed substitution would not have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art. As previously stated, Masuda requires that the gas emitting pipes extend to a position adjacent the filter plates, so that when the rotating filter plates pass by the gas emitting pipes, material adhered to the face of the filter plates is removed. The gas emitting pipes of Masuda physically cannot be added to the Grigo device in this manner because the extension of the pipes would interfere with the element 8 in Grigo that is part of the filter plate structure. There is no obvious way for one of ordinary skill in the art to avoid this interference. Thus, the result of the proposed combination the teachings of Grigo and Masuda in this regard is not predictable, instead only a malfunction or interference situation would be predictable based on a combination of the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) was improper, and should be reversed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-4, 7-13 and 15 are allowable over the prior art references of record, and a ruling from the Board to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A filter device (1) for the separation of undissolved solid substances from liquids, in particular in the fields of waste water purification and water treatment, with several filter elements (6), for the introduction into a container (2) containing the unpurified liquid, wherein through the individual filter elements (6) a filtrate is capable of being drained away, the filter elements are arranged so as to be capable of rotating around a horizontal axis, and the filter elements (6) are designed and arranged in such a manner, that they form a hollow space (4) in the center, and wherein the filter device (1) comprises a gassing installation (8), which is stationarily arranged in the hollow space (4) and which for the formation of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being impinged with compressed gas and which is arranged in such a manner, that in the liquid a flow of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being produced at the filter elements (6), which renders an adhesion of solid substances to the filter elements (6) more difficult, and the filter elements (6) are arranged to be rotatable around the gassing installation (8), wherein the gassing installation (8) comprises either at least one elongated hollow body (10) only in the hollow space and arranged parallel to a hollow shaft (9), which is closed at the ends on both sides, or comprises at least one elongated hollow body (10) only in the hollow space and arranged horizontally as well as orthogonally to a hollow shaft (9), and the at least one hollow body (10) is connected with a chamber (12) of the hollow shaft (9) through connecting pieces (11), wherein the chamber (12) is connected with a compressed gas generator (14).

3. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 1, wherein the hollow space (4) is connected with the container (2) through apertures (5).

4. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 1, wherein the hollow space (4) is closed relative to the container (2).

7. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 1, wherein the filter elements (6) are rotatably supported by bearings (21, 22) on the hollow shaft (9) connected with the gassing installation (8).

8. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 1, wherein the hollow shaft (9) comprises a second chamber (26), which is connected with a vacuum pump (33) for draining away the filtrate.

9. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 8, wherein the chamber (26) for the draining away of the filtrate is provided with channels (27), which extend radially to the chamber (26) through the hollow shaft (9) and through a sliding ring (28) arranged as rotatable on the hollow shaft (9), which is connected with piping conduits (29), which are connected with the filter elements (6).

10. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hollow body (10) of the gassing installation (8), for the purpose of preventing sedimentation from the filter liquid, is provided with open socket pieces (34) directed downwards.

11. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 2, wherein in the upper zone of the apertures (5) semicircular spoilers are attached, in order to

increase the effect of the flow of compressed air on the filter liquid.

12. (Previously Presented) The filter device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hollow body (10) is designed as pipe-shaped and in order to allow the compressed gas to escape is comprised of a porous material or else is provided with holes (15).

13. (Previously Presented) A filter device for the separation of undissolved solid substances from liquids, in particular in the fields of waste water purification and water treatment, with several filter elements, for the introduction into a container containing the unpurified liquid, wherein through the individual filter elements a filtrate is capable of being drained away, the filter elements are arranged so as to be capable of rotating around a horizontal axis, and the filter elements are designed and arranged in such a manner, that they form a hollow space in the center, and wherein the filter device comprises a gassing installation, which is stationarily arranged in the hollow space and which for the formation of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being impinged with compressed gas and which is arranged in such a manner, that in the liquid a flow of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being produced at the filter elements, such that this flow renders an adhesion of solid substances to the filter elements more difficult, and in that the filter elements are arranged to be rotatable around the gassing installation;

wherein the gassing installation comprises at least one elongated hollow body that is either porous or provided with holes and that is connected to a compressed gas generator, wherein the elongated hollow body is located only within the hollow space formed by the filter elements.

15. (Previously Presented) A filter device for the separation of undissolved solid substances from liquids, in particular in the fields of waste water purification and water treatment, with several filter elements, for the introduction into a container containing the unpurified liquid, wherein through the individual filter elements a filtrate is capable of being drained away, the filter elements are arranged so as to be capable of rotating around a horizontal axis, and the filter elements are designed and arranged in such a manner, that they form a hollow space in the center, and wherein the filter device comprises a gassing installation, which is stationarily arranged in the hollow space and which for the formation of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being impinged with compressed gas and which is arranged in such a manner, that in the liquid a flow of a mixture of gas and liquid is capable of being produced at the filter elements, which renders an adhesion of solid substances to the filter elements more difficult, and the filter elements are arranged to be rotatable around the gassing installation, wherein the gassing installation comprises a hollow shaft with gas outlet openings and is connected to a compressed gas generator, the filter elements being arranged to be rotatable around the hollow shaft, wherein the gas outlet openings are located only in the hollow space formed by the filter plates.

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IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence was submitted by the applicants pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.130, 1.131 or 1.132, and no evidence was entered by the Examiner and relied upon by the applicants in this appeal.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no related proceedings.